

Mr Amos G. Phelps

Andover

Mass.

Rev. Dr. Muddock.

Dr. Muddock. Ap. 6. 1829

5. W. York.

by these facilities for preaching, I consider as of vast importance. I deeply deplore a ~~system~~ of education which shuts up a theological student the whole three years. Mr Fitch delivers a course of lectures on sermonizing. You have heard him preach & will therefore understand me when I say that he exhibits as much talent in his lectures as in his sermons. He will criticize for us in private as many sermons & skeletons as we choose. We have also public criticisms of sermons before the class once a week. If we choose, instead of preaching ourselves, to attend in the chapel on the Sabbath, we have an admirable model before us. For my own part, I feel that my residence here will have a propitious influence on my future life.

I feel rejoiced that I came. I might enter into further detail, but my limits will not admit.

With respect to my obtaining a dismission from Andover, I could not obtain it except on the condition of going to another theological Seminary. But on that condition I found no difficulty in obtaining it.

There has been residing in town during the past year an instructor in elocution - Dr Barber, an accomplished reader & speaker. His instructions I esteem very valuable. There is no want of special interest or importance. I know of no special seriousness in the college. I was happy to receive your letter & shall be glad to answer any further inquiries you may wish to make. —

Affectionately yours,

G. W. Perkins

lectures on mental philosophy are extremely interesting, & so far as my reading extends, far superior to any others that has been published on that subject. He never mystifies a subject—Every topic which he takes up, is presented clearly & powerfully to the mind. His mode of reasoning is straight forward, & logical. Dr Taylor's private character is extremely interesting & engaging. His pupils in private are treated in the most frank & gentlemanly manner. It is impossible not to love him.

After what I have now said, you will not be surprised to hear that I have highly enjoyed an attendance on his lectures. I feel no hesitation in saying that in no other place can ^{more} noble & ~~theological~~ views of theology be obtained. My own removal to this place, I have no doubt has been exceedingly advantageous to me. Still it would have been more advantageous had I come at the commencement of the summer term; for during that term he delivers some of his most important lectures—those on which depends much of his subsequent course. His pupils consider the summer ^{term} as the most interesting & important of the whole year.

The mode pursued here during the third year, is better adapted than almost any other to fit us for preaching. We are licensed at the commencement of the year, & our professors wish us to preach at after at we have opportunity. We have thus an immediate & powerful motive for writing sermons. We have an opportunity of seeing various clergymen & parishes. Each time we preach we can see the faults of our sermons & our delivery, & thus have continual record & notices for improvements. So that when we finish the third year & enter into the ministry we have some experience. The advantages, to be obtained here

New Haven, 5th April 1829.

Dear Phelps,

My eyes oblige me to ask the assistance of Mr Nichols, so that you may consider this letter as coming from us both. — I am very glad to find that your mind is excited to the subject mentioned in your letter, & that your feelings & views are very similar to my own while I was at Andover. — You allude to the alleged obscurity & arminionism of Dr Taylor's piece on the means of regeneration; but on this subject I refer you to my letter to Robbins. It is of course impossible in a letter to enter on the discussion of such a subject. It requires, I think, to be only studied, to be valued. At Princeton it is lightly thought of, & the subscription list ^{there} for the Spect. has been doubled. — You allude to Dr W's letter to Dr Taylor. If your account of the positions he takes, be correct, I should consider them as wholly untenable. Like yourself I can see no conclusiveness in his reasonings. Neither on this subject can I in a letter enter upon any discussion. —

You enquire what are the ^{comparative} merits of Dr W & Dr T. I have attended the lectures of both & have had a fair opportunity of judging of their merits. Dr T. as a man of intellect is far superior to Dr Woods. It is impossible to sit in his recitation room a single half hour without feeling that you are in contact with a mind of a superior order. He is a man, too, of uncommon candor, fairly meets every difficulty, never evades any question. As an instructor he is uncommonly happy in the clearness & precision in which he expresses & illustrates his ideas. His mind, too, is uncommonly discriminating. His views of theological truth are profound & comprehensive. His